

PATENT  
674525-2001REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 45 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 48-51 are pending in this application. Claims 7-25, 32 and 40-47 have been cancelled; claims 48-51 have been added. No new matter is added by this amendment.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments of and additions to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Support is found throughout the specification and from the pending claims. Furthermore, it is explicitly stated that the herewith amendments should not give rise to any estoppel, as the herewith amendments are not narrowing amendments.

II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, 1<sup>ST</sup> PARAGRAPH, ARE OVERCOME

Claims 42-44 and 47 have been cancelled, rendering any rejection moot. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 45 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; new claims 48 and 50 correspond to claims 45 and 46, respectively. New claims 49 and 51 are dependent claims that correspond to claim 47. It is believed that these claims overcome the §112, first paragraph, rejection; therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal are requested.

PATENT  
674525-2001

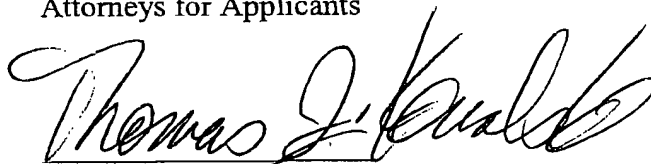
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, or at least in better condition for appeal. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By:



Thomas J. Kowalski

Reg. No.: 32,147

Telephone: (212) 588-0800